



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

*501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, California 95814*

*916/554-2700
Fax 916/554-2900*

For Immediate Release
December 29, 2004

*Contact: Mary Wenger
www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home*

**GOVERNMENT CRACKS DOWN ON MANUFACTURING OF
COUNTERFEIT UNITED STATES CURRENCY**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury has issued two Indictments in cases involving the manufacture and possession of counterfeit United States currency. According to Assistant United States Attorney Robin R. Taylor, who is prosecuting the cases, the grand jury has charged JESSICA ROEPKE, 33, of Loomis, California with manufacturing and possessing counterfeit Federal Reserve Notes. According to the charging document, ROEPKE possessed approximately 12 counterfeit Notes and was manufacturing counterfeit money. In a separate Indictment, the grand jury charged MICHAEL RASMUSSEN, 38, of Wheatland, California with passing, possessing, and manufacturing counterfeit currency. According to the charging document, RASMUSSEN possessed approximately 16 Notes and was also making counterfeit funds.

The case is the product of an investigation by the U.S. Secret Service and the Placer County Sheriff's Office.

The defendants face a maximum of up to 20 years imprisonment per count, \$250,000 fine, and restitution.

The Indictments on file contains only accusations, and defendants ROEPKE and RASMUSSEN are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

###